

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4640
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON PRESIDENT'S PRESS
CONFERENCE AND ON U.S. POLICY

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S
PRESS CONFERENCE AND STRONGLY ATTACKS ADMINIS-
TRATION POLICIES. END SUMMARY

1. PRAVDA OF JULY 22 CARRIES A TASS ACCOUNT
OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE. OPENING
WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. HAS RECENTLY
TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS WHICH HAVE WORSENERED SOVIET-
U.S. RELATIONS, TASS REPORTS "SERIOUS DISSATIS-
FACTION" IN THE U.S. OVER THE CONSEQUENCES OF
THESE STEPS, DISSATISFACTION WHICH THE PRESIDENT
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IS SAID TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MEET AT THIS
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH "INCONSISTENCY AND
DUALITY (OR DUPLICITY - DVOISTVENNOST)". TO
SUPPORT THIS POINT, TASS CITES THE PRESIDENT'S
STATED HOPE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE
SOVIET UNION WHICH, IT SAYS, "WERE BROUGHT TO
NAUGHT" BY HIS POSITION ON THE SALE OF OIL

DRILLING EQUIPMENT TO THE USSR. TASS FURTHER CLAIMS THAT IN HIS ANSWERS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THE PRESIDENT DID NOT RESPOND TO CONCERN IN THE U.S. OVER OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR "SPIES AND TRAITORS" IN THE SOVIET UNION WHICH IS COMBINED WITH INDIFFERENCE TO THE FATE OF THE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AT HOME.

2. THE SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY ITS U.S. CORRESPONDENT T. KOLESNICHENKO EXPLAINING WHY THE "POPULARITY" OF THE ADMINISTRATION "HAS FALLEN SHARPLY". KOLESNICHENKO WRITES THAT "PRACTICALLY FROM ITS FIRST DAYS" THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SHOWN "VACILATION, READINESS TO YIELD TO THE PRESSURE FROM THE RIGHT, FEAR OF LOSING THE SUPPORT OF BIG CAPITAL, (AND) OF CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES." TO BUTTRESS THIS THESIS, KOLESNICHENKO CONTRASTS PROMISES DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONCERNING GUN LAWS AND DEFENSE SPENDING WITH CURRENT ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS. HE THEN CONTRASTS THE "HYPOCRITICAL AND TENDENTIOUS" HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM OF THE ADMINISTRATION WITH ITS ALLEGED INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT HOME, IN SOUTH KOREA, CHILE, AND ELSEWHERE. KOLESNICHENKO CONCLUDES BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAYING THAT ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE HARDENING OF THE ADMINISTRATIONS FOREIGN POLICY IS ITS "INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY, (AND) TO GET OUT OF THE MORAL-POLITICAL CRISIS".

3. IZVESTIYA OF JULY 21 CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE BY ITS U.S. CORRESPONDENT M. STURUA PURPORTING TO EXPLAIN "ANTISOVIET HYSTERIA" IN THE U.S. STURUA CLAIMS THAT "HIGHLY-PLACED FIGURES" HAVE SOUGHT TO USE THIS HYSTERIA "TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, EXTERNAL, INTERNAL, AND PERSONAL," AND HAVE THEREBY THREATENED THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND ALSO "THE ENTIRE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS."

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES ITS DIRECT AND INDIRECT ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT AND SHOWS LITTLE INHIBITION ABOUT ATTACKING THE ADMINISTRATION ON SELECTED ISSUES. TOON

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